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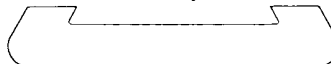
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Attachment to: Z-15210/82

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NPIC/IEG (4/82)

26 APRIL 1982

NEW LARGE HANGAR UNDER CONSTRUCTION
AKHTUBINSK FLIGHT TEST CENTER, USSR

1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: NEW LARGE HANGAR UNDER CONSTRUCTION MAY BE INTENDED TO SUPPORT RAM P DURING WEAPONS-INTERGRATION TESTING.
2. (S/D) REMARKS: IMAGERY [] REVEALED THE INITIAL CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW LARGE HANGAR AT AKHTUBINSK FLIGHT TEST CENTER. THE ACTIVITY IS AT AKHTUBINSK/VLADIMIROVKA AREA AIRFIELD [], NEAR THE EASTERN END OF THE PARALLEL TAXIWAY. GRADING FOR HANGAR FOOTINGS WAS FIRST OBSERVED [] SEVERAL OF THE EXCAVATIONS AND FORMS FOR THE FOOTINGS HAD BEEN COMPLETED. SIX EXCAVATIONS IN A SINGLE ROW HAD BEEN COMPLETED ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF THE CONSTRUCTION AREA. FOUR COMPLETED FORMS AND ONE PARTIALLY ASSEMBLED FORM WERE OBSERVED WITHIN THESE EXCAVATIONS. ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF THE CONSTRUCTION AREA, A SINGLE ROW OF FIVE EXCAVATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED; THREE OF THESE CONTAINED FORMS. EACH FORM HAS PROVISIONS FOR TWO STRUCTURAL BEAM SUPPORTS. THE PROVISIONS ARE [] APART. THE FORMS IN EACH ROW [] APART. THE INNER BEAM SUPPORTS IN THE EAST ROW ARE 59 METERS FROM THOSE IN THE WEST ROW.

(S/D) THE FORMS AT AKHTUBINSK ARE IDENTICAL IN SIZE, CONFIGURATION, AND PLACEMENT TO THE FOOTINGS USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LARGE UNIQUELY CONFIGURED HANGAR IN THE TUPOLEV AREA OF RAMENSKOYE FLIGHT TEST CENTER [] THE HANGAR AT RAMENSKOYE, WHICH HAS TWO CANTILEVER OUTER BAYS AND A CENTRAL CLERESTORY SECTION, CURRENTLY SUPPORTS THE RAM P. THE RAM P IS THE NEW TUPOLEV-DESIGNED STRATEGIC BOMBER BEING FLIGHT TESTED AT RAMENSKOYE.
3. (S/D) ANALYST'S COMMENTS: ONCE THE HANGAR AT AKHTUBINSK IS COMPLETE, IT WILL BE CAPABLE OF HOUSING ANY LARGE AIRCRAFT BEING TESTED THERE. HOWEVER, THE HANGAR IS PROBABLY INTENDED TO SUPPORT THE RAM P WHEN THAT AIRCRAFT REACHES THE WEAPONS INTEGRATION PHASE IN THE FLIGHT TEST PROGRAM. BASED ON THE CONSTRUCTION RATE AT RAMENSKOYE, THE NEW HANGAR AT AKHTUBINSK COULD BE COMPLETE BY JUNE 1983. []

(S)

COORDINATES: 48-17-32N 046-12-15E

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